



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **25 CHARGED IN MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY INVOLVING 1,000 KILOS OF MARIJUANA, NEARLY \$100,000 IN CASH**

**CASE ALSO INVOLVES ECSTASY, METH, COCAINE,  
MONEY LAUNDERING, SEIZURE OF PROPERTY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced at a news conference today that 25 co-defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury for their involvement in a conspiracy involving thousands of pounds of marijuana.

**Julio M. Lopez**, 27, of Tulare, Calif., **Damien M. Foxx**, 26, **Billy J. Berringer**, 26, **George Dye**, 23, **Ryan S. Dill**, 23, **Travis Hodge**, 22, **Darius L. Ellis**, 26, **Willie M. Foxx**, 22, **David E. Foxx**, 28, **Benjamin D. Christian**, 27, **Joshua L. Parrow**, 26, **Landon C. Roper**, 20, **Jason C. Tosch**, 22, **Devin J. Green**, 25, **Lameeka C. Jeffries**, 22, **James M. Allen**, 29, **Curtis Scott Cruise**, 26, and **David Lee Harris**, 36, all of Springfield, Mo., **Mark A. Nelson**, 24, of Pleasant Hope, Mo., **Norman L. Schafer**, 48, **Crystal L. Fox**, 31, **Donna S. Berringer**, 27, and **Michael E. Spear**, 23, all of Marshfield, Mo., **James M. Allen**, 29, of Pierce City, Mo., **Jeremiah Lucas Louthan**, 26, of West Plains, Mo., and **Danny E. Osborne**, 37, whose address is unknown, were all charged in an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on July 8, 2005, in Springfield. The indictment, which was returned under seal, was made public today upon the arrest and initial court appearance of several of the co-defendants involved in the marijuana conspiracy.

“This case is significant because it involves not only thousands of pounds of marijuana that have been distributed within this community, but also because of the lengths the co-conspirators went to in order to conceal the illegal activity,” Graves said. “Several co-defendants are also charged with laundering money, which was obtained as proceeds they derived from the conspiracy.”

“The indictment also alleges a variety of other crimes including charges related to the

distribution of methamphetamine, cocaine and ecstasy and the illegal possession of loaded firearms,” Graves added.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all of the co-defendants conspired to distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana between as early as Oct. 16, 2003, and Feb. 8, 2005, in Greene and Webster counties of Missouri.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Lopez** conspired to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Dec. 16, 2003, and April 20, 2005, in Greene and Webster counties.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Lopez** distributed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on April 20, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Nelson** possessed with the intent to distribute ecstasy on Jan. 30, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Ellis** possessed with the intent to distribute ecstasy on March 30, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** distributed cocaine on March 4, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** distributed cocaine on March 10, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** distributed cocaine on March 19, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** distributed cocaine on March 24, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Ten of the federal indictment alleges that **Berringer** and **Schafer** possessed with intent to distribute marijuana on Jan. 30, 2005, in Webster County.

Count Eleven of the federal indictment alleges that **Roper** possessed with intent to distribute marijuana on Jan. 30, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Twelve of the federal indictment alleges that **Tosch** possessed with intent to distribute marijuana on Jan. 30, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Thirteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** possessed with intent to distribute marijuana on Jan. 30, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Fourteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Harris** possessed with intent to

distribute marijuana on Jan. 30, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Fifteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** possessed with intent to distribute marijuana on Aug. 19, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Sixteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Hodge** possessed with intent to distribute marijuana on Jan. 24, 2005, in Greene County.

Count Seventeen of the federal indictment alleges that **Dye** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of two firearms on Jan. 30, 2005, in Greene County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that **Dye** was in possession of a fully loaded Taurus 9 mm handgun and a Ruger Mark II long gun with a scope while an unlawful user of marijuana.

Count Eighteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Damien Foxx, Berringer, Dill** and **Fox** conspired to launder money as part of their role in the conspiracy to distribute marijuana. The indictment alleges that the money laundering took place between as early as Oct. 16, 2003, and Feb. 8, 2005, in Greene and Webster counties.

The indictment alleges that **Damien Foxx** and **Berringer** obtained marijuana and then they, along with **Dill** and **Fox**, would redistribute that marijuana to others. After selling the marijuana, the co-defendants would then reinvest the money into the conspiracy in order to pay their supplier and to obtain more marijuana. Specifically, on Jan. 18, 2005, **Berringer** and **Fox** conducted a wire transfer of \$1,500 from Webster County, which involved the proceeds of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana. The indictment alleges that the co-defendants conducted the financial transaction with the intent to promote the carrying on of the marijuana conspiracy.

Additionally, the indictment alleges, **Damien Foxx** laundered money again when he transferred \$5,000 from Greene County on Jan. 12, 2005, that involved the proceeds of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana. The money used in this wire transfer was derived from the marijuana conspiracy and used to pay for property located at 418 E. Evergreen, in Springfield, the indictment alleges. The property was used as a stash house and a marijuana distribution center, according to the indictment.

Count Nineteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Berringer** and **Fox** conducted a wire transaction from Webster County on Jan. 18, 2005, transferring \$1,500 derived from the distribution of marijuana.

Count Twenty of the federal indictment alleges that **Damien Foxx** conducted a wire transaction from Greene County on Jan. 12, 2005, transferring \$5,000 derived from the distribution of marijuana.

Count Twenty-One of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count and would require that **Damien Foxx, Willie Foxx, David Foxx** and **Jeffries** forfeit to the United States all property

derived from any proceeds obtained as a result of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana, including \$50,355 seized from **Damien Foxx** on Jan. 30, 2005, at 3959 W. Maple in Springfield; \$9,000 obtained on Feb. 3, 2005, which was paid to a company for the purchase of an automobile; \$19,441.97 seized on Jan. 31, 2005, from a Commerce Bank account in **Damien Foxx's** name; a silver ring with numerous diamonds and a Benny and Company men's wristwatch with diamonds seized from **Damien Foxx** on Jan. 30, 2005; a 2002 Cadillac Escalade seized from **Damien Foxx** on Jan. 30, 2005; a 2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder seized from **Damien Foxx** and **Jeffries** on Jan. 30, 2005; a 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe seized from **Willie Foxx** on Jan. 30, 2005; a 2000 Lincoln Navigator seized from **David Foxx** on Jan. 30, 2005; and \$445 seized from **Willie Foxx** on Jan. 30, 2005.

Count Twenty-Two of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count and would require **Berringer** to forfeit to the United States all property derived from any proceeds obtained as a result of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana, including property located at 6575 State Highway W, in Marshfield, and two tracts of land located in Webster County.

Count Twenty-Three of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count and would require **Dill** to forfeit to the United States all property derived from any proceeds obtained as a result of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana, including property located at 5609 W. Lombard St. in Springfield, and 808 W. Hoody Hall Lane, in Pleasant Hope.

Count Twenty-Four of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count and would require **Hodge** to forfeit to the United States all property derived from any proceeds obtained as a result of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana, including \$1,091 and four Sumitomo tires with custom wheels seized on Jan. 30, 2005, from 1816 W. Chestnut, in Springfield.

Count Twenty-Five of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count and would require **Nelson** to forfeit to the United States all property derived from any proceeds obtained as a result of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana, including a 2004 Yamaha Raptor ATV 660 with gold Dayton wheels and four chrome 100 spoke wheels that were seized from 1416 S. Kickapoo, in Springfield.

"In addition to the narcotics charges, the indictment contains five forfeiture counts calling for several co-defendants to forfeit any and all property derived as a result of the conspiracy including everything from nearly \$100,000 in cash that has been seized from bank accounts to watches, jewelry, and vehicles," Graves said. "That property was obtained illegally and therefore should be forfeited to the government. In fact, much of it already has been seized."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Webster County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

“This investigation resulted in one of this office’s largest marijuana conspiracies and is to the credit of the law enforcement agencies that participated in working the case,” Graves said. “I want to commend the investigators who dedicated countless hours to uncovering this narcotics ring. Their time and energy is appreciated and will prove to be a great help as we move forward with this prosecution.”

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)